

# MSHA HAZARD ALERT

## OVERTRAVELING ROADWAYS, BERMS AND WATER HAZARDS COST LIVES

SINCE JANUARY 1995, 15 MINERS HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES WHEN THE EQUIPMENT THEY WERE OPERATING OR RIDING IN, EITHER TRAVELED THROUGH AN ESTABLISHED BERM, OVERTRAVELED ROADWAYS AND OVERTURNED, OR THE VEHICLE DROVE INTO A POND OR OTHER WATER HAZARD.

These types of accidents can be reduced or eliminated if mine operators require the following:

- Enforce rules governing speed, direction of travel, right of way and use of headlights.
- Design haulage roads and traffic patterns to minimize the chances for operator error.
- Establish and maintain berms along elevated roadways and around water hazards which meet or exceed MSHA requirements.
- Route traffic away from water hazards and congested areas.
- Establish a preventive maintenance program which identifies and eliminates equipment defects before operation.
- Require operators to wear seat belts.



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